CHECKING OUT FREDERICK COUNTY'S iLIBRARY
Your library card is your ticket to on-line databases that entertain, inform, and save you money

FREDERICK, MD, July 26, 2012 - Some of Frederick County Public Libraries' best books aren't on the shelves—they're on your computer. The library subscribes to over 40 databases ranging from car repair manuals and SAT preparation to free music downloads and animated children's books.

"People want access to information on their computers and smart phones 24/7," says Sydney McCoy, Manager of the C. Burr Artz Library in Downtown Frederick. "But they also want to find information that's reliable and free. That's where the library comes in."

Cashing in
The library has several databases that will help you grow your nest egg, either by creating or expanding your business, by investing intelligently, or by cutting your expenses.

Reference USA has detailed records on about 12 million U.S. businesses. Use it to conduct job searches, look for sales leads, find new business opportunities and suppliers, and conduct market research.

Investors can make informed and timely decisions using Value Line Research Center, a complete investment management tool that provides a wealth of in-depth financial information. In addition to objective research and insightful commentary, Value Line also offers proven price projections and advanced analytical tools.

Databases can help you save money, too. Auto Repair Reference Center provides troubleshooting directions for most makes and models. Their care and repair tips may give your car the keys to a longer life. Perusing *Consumer Reports* in the MasterFile Premiere database before you make a major purchase can also help you stretch your dollars.

Entertainment On-line
Freegal Music stretches your music budget with three free music downloads a week. The selection includes hundreds of thousands of items available from Sony Music. Best of all, you get to keep the songs on your device. They don't have to be returned, and they don't expire.

Finding on-line content that is entertaining and educational for kids can be a challenge. That's why the library subscribes to databases that provide high-quality e-books and videos. Tumblebook Library is an online collection of picture books with added animation, sound, music, and narration. BookFLIX pairs classic video storybooks with nonfiction e-books, and TrueFLIX allows children to read a nonfiction book, watch educational videos, and find project ideas to further explore topics.

<u>Learning all the time</u>
Techie-wannabes will find Safari Books Online database helpful, whether they need to learn how to use the voice command function on an iPhone or design web pages with javascript. Safari contains thousands of full-color, always-available e-books on personal finance, computer technology, digital media, and professional development.

Track your progress on learning software for test preparation or foreign languages. Mango Complete is a visually engaging, interactive language learning tool that includes tutorials in a dozen languages, including English as a second language. You can take full-length practice tests, such as the SAT in Testing and Education Reference Center. It contains standardized assessments for high school, undergraduate and graduate admissions, citizenship, and many careers. If you create an account using your library card number, you can save your results and analyze your scores for areas needing additional study.

Other databases help people research their family history, find the value of antiques, examine the archives of the *Frederick News-Post* and other major newspapers, and locate research on medical conditions. Plus there are online encyclopedias, primary source documents, and articles to help students with homework and research projects.

Each database contains thousands of articles from different sources, which can be searched simultaneously by keyword. "You can cover a lot of ground quickly because only credible information is included," explains Teresa Vorce, Materials Manager. "On Google, you might find quality sources, but often you'll have to pay for them. In library databases, you get full content for free."

For more information, visit www.fcpl.org. Click on *Research* and *Resource Guides* to find a complete list of databases.

<u>Side Bar</u>:
Watching your pennies

Library users are smart with their money. What better way to make informed purchasing choices than by using *Consumer Reports*? The library even has a mobile version, so you can check the

ratings while you're in the store or showroom. Go to http://www.fcpl.org/mobile.html, and click on EbscoHost Mobile to download the app using your library card number. Then search for "Consumer Reports and cars" to help you decide whether to buy a Pilot or a Prius.

Note to Editor: High resolution image is available upon request.